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From: Singhvi, Raj
Sent: Tue 3/31/2015 7:18:10 PM
Subject: Please edit the ERT weekly : need your input by tomorrow morning.

Sirenusa Methyl Bromide Exposures [Emergency Response]. On Saturday, March 21, Greg Powell, the ERT phone duty officer at the time, was contacted by EPA Region 2 regarding an incident reported to the U.S. Virgin Islands government and EPA. The report indicated that four members of a family vacationing at the Sirenusa Condominium Resort in Cruz Bay, St. John, became very ill, showing neurological symptoms, and were subsequently hospitalized. The condo complex consists of 22 units, eight of which are privately owned. The impacted units are maintained by a management company that arranged to have pesticide applied to the interiors. The pesticide, methyl bromide, was applied in a lower unit and the fumes seemingly moved upwards into the unit above which was occupied by the aforementioned family. The use of methyl bromide in the U.S. is restricted due to its acute toxicity. Only certified applicators are allowed to use it in certain agricultural settings and is not authorized for use in residences. Health effects of acute exposure to methyl bromide are serious and include the central nervous system and respiratory system damage. EPA Region 2 requested on-site technical support and sampling equipment to perform necessary sampling to assess the Unit J (upper and lower floor) to be shipped to its field office in St. Thomas.

In response to the Region 2 request, Raj Singhvi and two SERAS personnel were mobilized to St. Thomas on March 23 to assist in the response. ERT notified the Headquarters EOC at 1:25 pm on March 22nd. EPA is working with the Department of Planning and Natural Resources in locating any warehoused containers of the pesticide and in drafting sampling plan and HASP. Additionally, R2-ORC has assigned two attorneys to this incident, one for CERCLA and one for Pesticides, and CID has three special agents on the scene.

During week of MARCH 23, 2015, air samples inside the lower and upper levels of J unit were collected for various parameters (VOC, methyl bromide, pesticide, wipe samples for hydrogen bromide). In addition to the sampling in building J, background samples were collected for hydrogen bromide and VOC in the unfumigated upper unit. Ambient air samples outside unit J were also collected for pesticides, VOC, and methyl bromide. The samples were sent to different laboratories. The VOC samples were analyzed at the ERT/ SERAS laboratory. Methyl bromide was detected at 1 ppm level in the upper unit. The lower unit sample results are expected by April 3, 2015. The remaining sample analysis results are coming from an outside laboratory some time during the week of April 6.

The EPA/ERT team demobilized from the site on March 29 and the ERT contractor SERAS, on

March 30). Three EPA Region 2 OSCs and their contractor remain on site. (Contacts: ERT – Rajeshmal Singhvi, 732-321-6761. Region 2 – OSCs Cris D’Onofrio, 732-906-6977, Geoffrey Garrison, 787-977-5820)

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